(b) Airbus A-300 and A-320 aircraft in operation Airlines have the required certificates of airworthiness. Necessary infrastructure to handle these aircraft is available with Indian Airlines, and is under constant surveillance by Director General of Civil Aviation.

Visit of the Minister of Tourism to U AE

474. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Minister of Tourism had recently led a 14-Member delegation to United Arab Emirates (UAE) to promote Indian tourism there, if so, what is the impact of this visit, including the estimated number of UAE tourists expected in the coming years;

(b) what are the details of efforts made by the delegation in UAE, giving the details of important meetings held and places visited;

(c) what are the special measures taken or contemplated to be taken to cater to the tastes and requirements of UAE tourists when they visit India; and

(d) what are the names of the Members of the delegation and the criteria for their selection and whether Government would Consider sending such high level delegation in other regions of the world to promote Indian lourism?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (d) The Minister of Civil Aviation and Tourism led a delegation to the following countries from 27th January to 6th February, 1994;—

(1) United Arab Emirates (UAE)

(2) Oman

(3) Bahrain

(4) Qatar

(5) Kuwait

(6)Jordan

The programme comprised of an "India Evening' presentation jointly organised by the Indian Embassy, Air India and the Department of Tourism. The target audience included the travel trade in the respective countries, Non-Resident Indians, local opinion makers and prominent people as well as other expatriates in the respective countries. Wide media coverage through Television, Newspapers and Radio was organised. The effort was to generate closer inter- action between the travel trade and the travelling public in these countries and the Indian travel industry. It was also intended to generate confidence in India as safe and attractive destination. The special programme was done in the background of the steep drop in tourist arrivals in the aftermath of the events in Ayodhya and bomb blasts in several parts of the country. The visit was part of a campaign which included several delegations to other countries in Europe, Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), Southern Africa, Far East countries, etc. The delegation comprised of representatives of the travel trade and hotel industry, State Government representatives and officials of Departments of Tourism and Civil Aviation and has been very effective in creating a turn around in tourist arrivals resulting in record arrivals in the months of December, 1993 and January, 1994. Meetings also took place with important dignitaries including Heads of State and wide ranging discussions relating to Civil Aviation and Tourism were held. Tourism promotion is a continuing activity of the Department of Tourism.

A list of the members of the delegation is enclosed in a Statement.

Statement

List of Delegation

1. Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad,
   Minister of Civil Aviation & Tourism
2. Shri J. Sanyal,
   Addl. Director General (Tourism)
3. Shri R. Subramanian,
   Managing Director,
   Tourism Finance Corporation of India Ltd.
4. Shri S.S. Chandel, Director (Tourism),
   Government of Himachal Pradesh
5. Shri S. Krishnan, Director of
   Tourism, Government of Uttar Pradesh

6. Shri K. Jayakumar, Special Secretary (Tourism), Government of Kerala
7. Shri Ghulam Naqshband, Indian Association of Tour Operators, Sita World Travels India Pvt. Ltd.
8. Shri Tej Sahni, President, Travel Agents Association of India, Vista Travels, Bombay
9. Shri Subhash Goel, Indian Association of Tour Operators, Stick Travels, New Delhi
10. Shri Krishan Mahajan, Indian Association of Tour Operators, Ambassador Travels, Bombay
11. Shri V.S. Ramanchandran, Addl. P.S. to Minister of Civil Aviation & Tourism

Gradation of Hotels and Restaurants in India

475. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many hotels and restaurants in India have been given ratings ranging from one-star to five stars and even higher; if so, what are guidelines for the award of these ratings;

(b) what is the number of hotels holding different categories of stars and what are the names of hotels holding 3-star and above status;

(c) what are the facilities/services which each category of starred hotels is supposed to offer;

(d) when was the last rating carried out and whether any hotels were up- graded or downgraded as a result thereof; if so, the names thereof; and

(e) whether Government propose a revision of the above guidelines and to broad-base the rating procedures to ensure that the starred hotels actually provide those services which they are supposed to provide?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM: (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) Under a voluntary scheme for Classification of hotels, star category ratings are given after an inspection by the Hotel & Restaurants Approval & Classification Committee. Approval to Restaurants is also given after inspection by the Committee. Guidelines for Classification and the number of hotels classified in different categories and the names of hotels classified in 3-Star and above categories is given in the Annexure *[See* Appendix 170, Annexure No. 9.].

(d) and (e) Classification/ Declassification is a continuous process and the inspection of hotels is carried out on continual basis by the Central Committee and th!e Regional Committees. With a view to ensure that star hotels actually provide the services which they are supposed to, reclassification in a particular star category, up-gradation and down-gradation is done on the basis of these inspections.

Arrival of Foreign Tourists in the Country

476. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that tourism is a major source of foreign exchange earnings for India; if so, what is the amount of foreign exchange earned by the Indian Tourism Industry during 1991, 1992 and 1993 and projections for the 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998 and 1999;

(b) what are the top 20 countries from where maximum tourists come to India and what was the number of tourists from each such country during 1991-92 and 1992-93; and

(c) what are the details of measures being taken by Government to attract more foreign tourists, particularly from the countries which have hitherto untapped potential to send tourists to India?

THE MINISTER FOR CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) The estimated foreign exchange earnings form tourism during the last three years were as given below:—

Year	Rs. Crores
1991	2918
1992	3916
1993	4251